

# Daily Herald

0 PROVO, UTAH, TUESDAY, JANUARY 21, 1986 \$6.00 A MONTH — PRICE 25 CENTS



Steve Olsen Photo

## Canyon Slide Creeping Toward River

Crews using bulldozers and other heavy equipment continue to battle a mudslide in Provo Canyon that threatens a steel-pipe aqueduct that transports water to Utah Power & Light Co. turbine generators.

The slide has been an ongoing problem for more two years and the toe of the slide is already pushing into the Provo River.

In non-winter months, some of the water transported by the 8-foot pipe supplies the city of Orem. The majority of Orem's water that comes through Provo Canyon is transported in another canyon aqueduct that is buried and not affected by the mudslide.

The pipe has been knocked out of commission in before and was out of service for several weeks. The slide is about 600 feet wide.

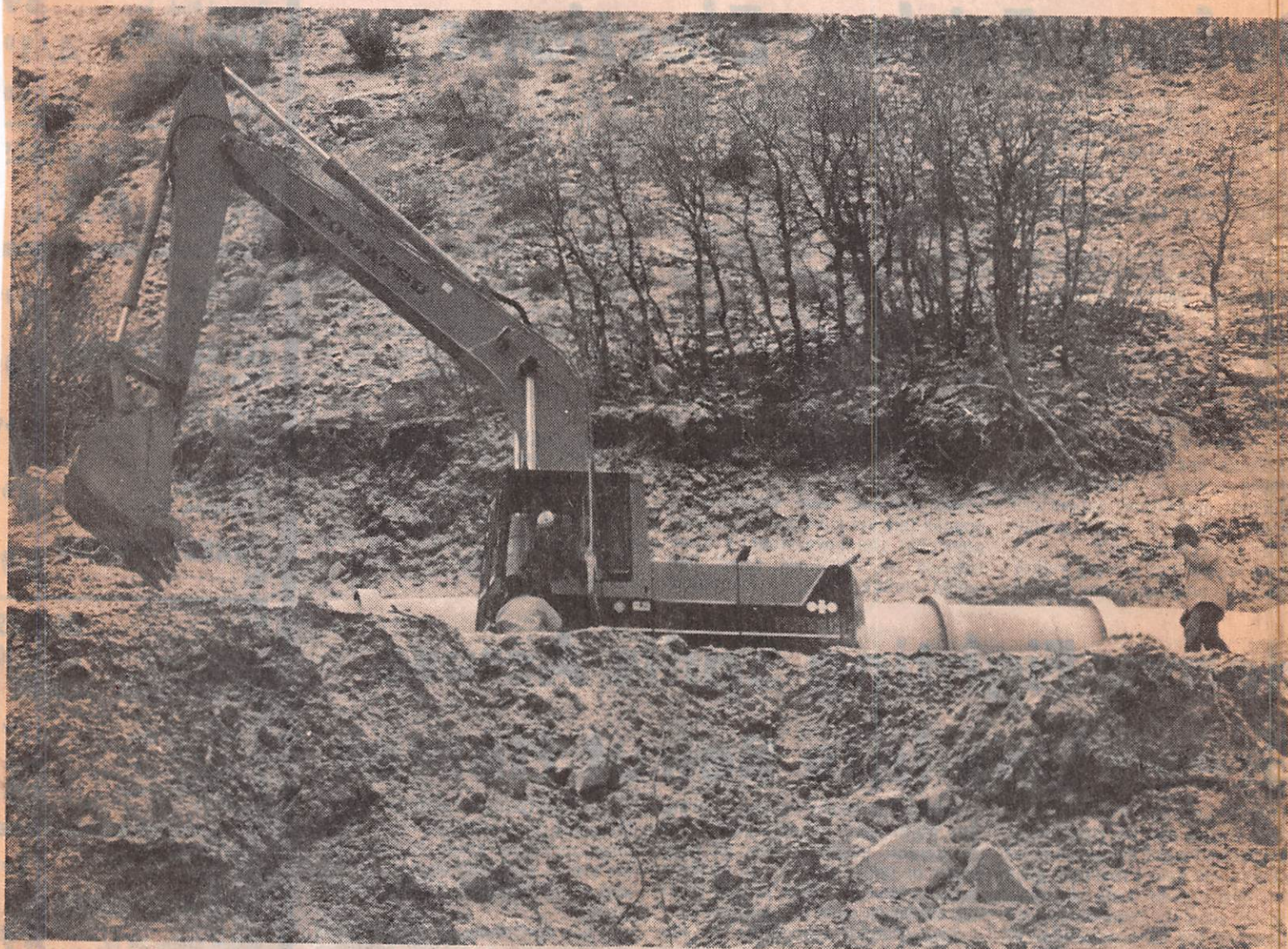


# The Daily Herald

112TH YEAR, NO. 162

PROVO, UTAH, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1986

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Workers clear the area around the large green UP&L water pipe in Provo Canyon.

Phil Shurtleff Photo

## Officials Warn to Boil Water

By LISA MOTE  
Herald Staff Writer

Murky, silty water flowed from taps around Provo City today because a rock slide broke a pipe, allowing water to wash out other water pipes near Canyon Glen in the Provo Canyon.

Because of the silt, the Utah County Health Department issued an order urging residents to boil

their water 10 minutes before drinking it or using it for culinary purposes. Utah Valley Regional Medical Center has put its plans into action to prevent possible contamination.

If there is a lot of silt in the water, officials suggest residents allow the silt to settle, then transfer the water to a different container and boil it for 10 minutes.

The boil order went into effect at 8:15 a.m. and will stay until the water clears up probably sometime this evening," said Glade Shelley, supervisor of environmental health for the Health Department.

The order was necessary because of the amount of dirt in the water system, Shelley said. The dirt ties up the chlorine and does not leave any to disinfect the

water.

Provo has increased the amount of chlorine in the water to help the problem, and as soon as the water clears up, the boil order will end. Shelley said the last boil order was issued during the flooding in 1982-83.

Jesse Robinson, Provo's water and wastewater director, said sometime before 1 or 2 a.m.,

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# WATER: Boil Order Issued After Mountain Mudslide

(Continued from Page 1)

large boulders dislodged and tore a hole in the side of a Utah Power and Light green pipeline in the canyon.

The water from the pipe flowed toward the Nunn's Spring area near Bridal Veil Falls and washed out some of Provo's pipeline, allowing dirt into the water system.

Provo employees were working to block the water line coming from the springs area so it wouldn't mix with the clear water coming from the lines in the south fork area.

By evening, officials hope to have the line blocked and use the clear water from the south fork to flush the silt from the system, allowing the city to restore its water supply, Robinson said.

The only areas of Provo that weren't affected by the break are high on the hills around the city where residents use tanks of unaffected water.

Robinson said this was the worst problem with the city's

water system he has seen in the five years he has worked for Provo.

In addition to the city and county action, Utah Valley hospital officials took action to prevent problems with contaminated water by shutting down the facility's water usage from the tap, said Mike Rawson, manager of protective services.

The hospital then brings in potable water for drinking from a dairy and uses its in-house distillers to distill water for medical needs.

In addition, he said, nurses encourage the patients to drink more fruit juice and soda pop and less water.

"It's a little inconvenient, but we have enough supplies on hand to carry things until we get the potable water from the dairy. You can work through it," Rawson said.

This is the third time in the past four years the hospital has had to put this plan into action.

## County Health Lifts Order to Boil Provo Water

A boil order on Provo water issued Saturday by the Utah County Health Department was removed Sunday afternoon after officials closed off springs that were allowing murky water into the city's water system.

"We've shut up some of the sources. As long as there are any heavy rains, we'll keep them shut," said Jesse Robinson, Provo's water and wastewater director.

Heavy rains in Provo Canyon

allowed mud to enter some of the city's underground spring system upstream from Canyon Glen. The city shut off some of those springs to keep the murky water from entering Provo's system, he said.

The county issued a boil order Saturday, suggesting that all residents with murky water boil the water 10 minutes before using it for culinary purposes. The order was taken off Sunday at 3 p.m. after officials checked the water to make sure it had cleared up.





PHOTOGRAPHY/ GARY MCKELLAR

Large boulder gouged hole in UP&L pipeline, contaminating Provo's water supply.

# Provo's water is back to normal after disruption

2-5-87

By Nancy Bringham  
Deseret News correspondent

PROVO — City water took on a familiar, welcome color and taste Wednesday as crews corrected problems that left Provo's water supply muddied on Tuesday and sparked a citywide order to boil all culinary water.

Provo's water woes began early Tuesday when a Utah Power & Light Co. pipeline that provides water to a hydroelectric power plant at the mouth of Provo Canyon was damaged in a storm, sending muddy water and silt into one of the city's main water sources.

Several boulders crashed off the walls of Provo Canyon around 1 or 2 a.m., gouging holes in a UP&L flow line that sits above Thayer's Spring Lateral — a city source of fresh water, said Jesse Robinson, city director of water and waste water.

Water that had been flowing through UP&L's line gushed down the mountainside, bringing dirt and debris with it into Thayer's Spring and contaminating the city's entire water system, Robinson said.

Early Tuesday morning UP&L crews diverted the water source flowing into the ruptured pipeline after they discovered the problem. Crews were working on the pipeline anyway because UP&L officials had been concerned about

ground slippage causing less extensive damage on other sections of the line, said Lee Drew, district manager.

"A piece of the cliff just broke loose and came through the flume," Drew said. "There was one boulder the size of a pickup truck, and there were several smaller ones that gouged out holes along the line."

About 15 to 20 employees of the water distribution and sources portion of Robinson's department spent all day Tuesday trying to clean up Provo's water.

"We've been flushing the system out all day today (Tuesday) with water from our other wells and springs," Robinson said. "The fire department is helping us by pulling all the fire hydrants and letting the water flow out into the street."

By late Tuesday afternoon, Robinson said, the problem appeared to be clearing up. He said residents should see clear and safe water in their homes and businesses sometime Wednesday.

A precautionary order to boil culinary water was issued for the entire city early Tuesday by the Utah County Environmental Health Department.

The order won't be lifted until Wednesday morning after inspectors are able to assess the city's water condition, said Glade Shelley, environmental health

inspector.

"The problem with getting silt and dirt in the water system is that it ties up the chlorine that usually acts as a disinfectant," he said. "People need to be sure to boil their water for at least 10 minutes. That's a couple of minutes over what's usually recommended. We'll check the city's water Wednesday morning to see if we can lift all or part of the boil order."

John Serfustini, UP&L public relations director, said it will take several days for crews to replace the sections of damaged pipe.

"We'll have to remove a couple of fairly lengthy pieces — about 20- to 30-foot sections," he said. "The power plant will be down until we get the flow line fixed, but this hasn't disrupted our service in any way."

Serfustini said he didn't know how much water the line was carrying when the damage occurred but described it as "a river in a pipe."

Robinson said water samples were taken early Tuesday to determine presence of harmful bacteria.

"We've been taking samples all day," he said. "We won't know until about 10 a.m. Wednesday if there is bacteria in the water since it takes that long for it to incubate. I would suggest residents continue boiling their water until the county lifts the health order."